

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). A method ~~to treat tissue in a selected wall region of an esophagus comprising the steps of~~

introducing an elongate member into ~~the~~ an esophagus, the elongate member comprising at least one electrode carried by the elongate member ~~operatively coupled to a source of radiofrequency energy~~ and an inflatable body carried by the elongate member circumferentially-spaced from and free of physical ~~or~~ and electrical contact with ~~the~~ any electrode;

inflating the inflatable body to stabilize the electrode in physical and electrical contact with ~~the~~ a selected wall region of the esophagus, while keeping the inflated body free of physical ~~or~~ and electrical contact with any electrode; and

coupling the electrode to a source of radiofrequency energy to delivering deliver radiofrequency energy to the electrode to treat tissue in the selected wall region.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1

wherein delivering radiofrequency energy causes heating of tissue in the selected wall region.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1

wherein delivering radiofrequency energy source causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 45°C to 65°C.

4 (Original). The method of claim 3

wherein delivering radiofrequency energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 50°C to 60°C.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1

wherein delivering radiofrequency energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 80°C.

6 (Original). The method of claim 5

wherein delivering radiofrequency energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 70°C.

7 (Original). The method of claim 1

further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the radiofrequency energy delivered in response to a measured temperature of tissue in the selected wall region.

8 (Original). The method of claim 1

further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the radiofrequency energy delivered in response to a measured impedance of tissue in the selected wall region.

9 (Currently amended). A method ~~of thermally-mediated therapy to treat a dysfunction associated with laxity in a selected wall portion of an esophagus, the method comprising the steps of~~ introducing ~~the~~ an elongate member into ~~the~~ an esophagus, the elongate member comprising at least one electrode carried by the elongate member ~~operatively coupled to a source of electrical energy~~ and an inflatable body carried by the elongate member circumferentially-spaced from and free of physical ~~or~~ and electrical contact with ~~the~~ any electrode;

inflating the inflatable body to stabilize the electrode in physical and electrical contact with ~~the~~ a selected wall region of the esophagus, while keeping the inflated body free of physical ~~or~~ and electrical contact with any electrode; and

coupling the electrode to a source of electrical energy to delivering ~~deliver~~ electrical energy to the electrode to stimulate an injury-healing process.

10 (Original). The method of claim 9 wherein delivering electrical energy affects synthesis of nascent collagen in the injury-healing process.

11 (Original). The method of claim 9 wherein delivering electrical energy affects shrinkage of native collagen.

12 (Original). The method of claim 9 wherein delivering electrical energy causes heating of tissue in the selected wall region.

13 (Currently amended). The method of claim 9 wherein delivering electrical energy ~~source~~ causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 45°C to 65°C.

14 (Original). The method of claim 13 wherein delivering electrical energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 50°C to 60°C.

15 (Currently amended). The method of claim ~~9~~ 8 wherein delivering electrical energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 80°C.

16 (Original). The method of claim 15

wherein delivering electrical energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 70°C.

17 (Original). The method of claim 9

further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the electrical energy delivered in response to a measured temperature of tissue in the selected wall region.

18 (Original). The method of claim 9

further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the electrical energy delivered in response to a measured impedance of tissue in the selected wall region.